

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FCSO Deputies to Give More Attention to Bicyclists

Bicycling Rules of the Road Enforced

FREDERICK, Md. (May 2, 2022) – As spring is upon us and more and more bicyclists are hitting Frederick County roads, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) wants to remind everyone that for their safety and the safety of all travelers there are rules of the road that apply to all bicyclists.

"Over the course of the last few weeks we have seen a large uptick in bicyclists' complaints," said FCSO Sheriff Chuck Jenkins. "I am directing our patrol teams to keep an eye out for bicyclists who are not following the rules of the road.

"If deputies observe violations, they will stop and warn the rider(s). If the violations are serious enough and the situation warrants it, the deputy could cite the rider. Additionally, bicyclists need to remember that Frederick County is very rural, with a good deal of farmland and to be cautious as farm equipment is out on the road. The safety of everyone traveling our roads is at the forefront of this agency."

According to the Sheriff, typically the FCSO receives complaints of motorists not respecting bike riders, but right now the influx of complaints are bicyclists are not obeying the rules.

The Maryland Vehicle Administration provides a full list of traffic laws for bicyclists, which can be found at this [link](#), but below are some of the common complaints in Frederick County:

- Bicycles are not permitted on any roads where the speed limit is more than 50 miles per hour or higher.
- A person riding a bicycle shall ride as close to the right side of the road as practicable and safe, except when:
 - Making or attempting to make a left turn;
 - Operating on a one-way street;
 - Passing a stopped or slower moving vehicle;
 - Avoiding pedestrians or road hazards;
 - The right lane is a right turn only lane; or
 - Operating in a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane
- A person cannot carry anything that prevents them from keeping both hands on the handlebars or that interferes with the view or balance of their bicycle.
- A person may not ride a bicycle while wearing a headset or earplugs that cover both ears.
- Helmets are required for everyone under the age of 16, including passengers, who ride bicycles on the road, bicycle paths, or any public property.
- Ride straight and single file in a predictable manner. Yield to pedestrians and obey all traffic signals and signs.

- Always ride on the right side of the road. Use caution when passing other traffic on the right. When approaching an intersection, use the appropriate lane for the direction you intend to travel (left, straight ahead, or right).
- When riding at night, Maryland State Law requires a white headlight on the front and a red reflector on the back visible from at least 600 feet. In addition, wear bright clothing in the daytime and reflective clothing for night riding.

If you see someone violating these laws, contact the Frederick County Emergency Communications Center non-emergency number at 301-600-2071 and they will dispatch an officer. The FCSO reminds everyone it is their responsibility to pay attention to the laws of the road, whether you are operating a vehicle, bicycle, or walking along the roadway.

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is a full-service law enforcement agency, an arm of the court, and a keeper of offenders. In this regard, it exists to serve the more than 250,000 citizens of Frederick County with respect, fairness, and compassion. FCSO is committed to the prevention of crime; the protection of life and property; the preservation of peace and order; the enforcement of laws and ordinances; the safeguarding of constitutional guarantees; and safekeeping of prisoners. The men, women, and officers of this office nurture public trust by holding themselves to the highest standards of performance and ethics. The FCSO is located at 110 Airport Drive East, Frederick, MD, 21701. Visit www.frederickcosherriff.com for more information.

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